CHALLENGE

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Volume 56 No.9 April 24, 2024 Suggested Donation $1

NYC

SMASH GENOCIDE IN PALESTINE

NEW YORK, NY, March 30 - A multiracial, multigenerational, and international contingent of 30 members and friends of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) marched to commemorate the 48th anniversary of Land Day, bringing masses of workers our revolutionary communist message. On this day in 1976, masses of workers in Palestine broke with nonviolence and embraced militant rebellion in response to Israeli-launched fascist land seizures and the murder of six unarmed workers. Across the U.S. in 2024, on an almost constant basis, thousands of workers and students are demonstrating against the U.S.-funded genocide in Gaza.

In New York City, PLP, with its dozen red flags and communist ideas and chants, joined the crowds chanting, "Joe Biden, you can't hide. You're committing genocide," and added our own sharper political line, "Capitalism, you can't hide! We charge you with genocide."

We also countered the nationalist chants with internationalist chants of "Asian, Latin, Black and white, workers of the world unite!" and chanted "Fight for communism, now's the time!" to let the masses now that communism is the only way the entire planet and working class will be free from violent displacement and genocide.

From Palestine to Mexico smash ALL capitalist borders.

During the march, we distributed more than 700 copies of CHALLENGE-DESAFIO and the same number of flyers written specifically for the event with the help of young Palestinian women workers who taught us a new chant. The chant which says that "from Palestine it has been decided we will smash the seige" contains the arabic word"hisar" which means seige, but hisar also has a second meaning: border. This chant reveals what workers in Palestine already know: Israel's fascist blockade of Gaza exposes the inherent racist class violence essential to ALL capitalist borders. Only communism can realize this chant's full meaning.

Fightback against genocide exposes growing fascism

In a sea of nationalist flags PL'ers raised communist PLP flags, representing internationalism and true liberation for the working class.

Prior to the demonstration, PL members reached out to their friends from workplaces, schools and neighborhoods to march with us. One retired faculty member from a college in New Jersey was joined by her friend, also a teacher, who had come under attack by her campus administrators when she posted a political cartoon criticizing the Israeli military and government for its mass killing of Palestinians, including thousands of students. This teacher was targeted by the Zionist gsroup Canary Mission, which trolls the Internet to identify faculty and students who are critical of Israeli policies and then reach out to Zionist community groups and student campus organizations to file complaints. This faculty member was the victim of such a complaint. Her response was to get more involved and to not retreat.

Aware that at recent demonstrations, police have been aggressively confiscating bullhorns and arresting protestors, PLP kept our contingent tightly organized, allowing us to bring our message of international solidarity and vision of a communist future to the workers surrounding us. Each person had a buddy and phone numbers in the event of police interference. The large crowd also helped provide security to all the protestors.

The sharpening attack, with the U.S. expanding its aid to Israel for the war abroad and aggressively targeting organizers who are protesting these policies at home, reflect the deepening crisis of U.S. capitalism. According to the civil rights organization, Palestine Legal, more than 2,000 faculty and students have been disciplined or fired for their protests against policies of the U.S. and Israeli governments. The spirited demonstration and our careful planning and organizing left our participants with a new resolve to build for the upcoming May Day march and to reach out to more of our friends and co-workers to win them to the importance of building a mass movement for communism.

Fight for communism for a free Palestine

As communists in the PLP, we understand that only when the working class runs society will workers and the land will be liberated. Neither fake elections nor Palestinian misleaders can do the job. As masses of workers in Palestine chant, "From Gaza, it's been decided, we will smash the siege!"It is clear that workers there and everywhere deserve nothing less than a communist world without borders. From Gaza to Mexico only communist revolution can break the siege and smash the nationalist borders genociding our class. Join the PLP and let's make these words a reality.

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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SCAN ME

OUR FIGHT

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.
While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049)
published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals.
1 issue $1. One Year: $20. Six months: $15. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals,
GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202
April 24, 2024 • Volume 56 No.9

Editorial

The Middle East, tinderbox for wider imperialist wars

On April 1, Israel's rulers struck Iran's embassy compound in Damascus, Syria—equivalent to bombing Iran itself, according to the capitalists' international law. They killed 11 workers and two Iranian generals tied to the country's "shadow war" against Israel. The same day, Israel deliberately targeted and bombed three cars in Gaza that carried aid workers with World Central Kitchen, according to WCK founder Jose Andres. This was no isolated incident. With a blank check for arms and bombs from the U.S., Israel has murdered two hundred aid workers and more than 33,000 Palestinians, the great majority of them noncombatant women and children, according to U.S. "Defense" Secretary Lloyd Austin (alajazeera.com, 3/1). The arms flow and atrocities continue despite Genocide Joe Biden's phony call for a ceasefire as he slaps his defiant lapdog, Israeli president and mass murderer Benjamin Netanyahu, on the wrist.

Capitalist profits and racist genocide continue to sit at the heart of the one-sided slaughter of workers in Palestine. U.S. imperialists have long relied on Israel as its military proxy in the Middle East, a permanent "aircraft carrier group" for U.S. oil interests. But that arrangement is now under attack. A wider war looms in the Middle East, one that might escalate into an inter-imperialist World War Three. In an all-out global conflict, the devastation of the international working class will intensify exponentially. It is time for all workers to turn these attacks into anti-racist class war against all imperialists and capitalists under the leadership of the international communist Progressive Labor Party.

Many smaller capitalist gangs in the region have allied with imperialist Iran against the U.S. and Israel, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Palestine, Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, and an array of militias in Syria and Iraq. With funding and weapons from Iran, along with the capitalists' ideological weapons of nationalism and religion, these groups have gained broad support among workers who are courageously fighting back against the Zionist war machine. But even if the groups' misleaders succeed, they can offer nothing but more exploitation of the working class under the guise of anti-imperialism. Communism, not a new set of capitalist bosses, is what our class needs for liberation!

Iranian bosses' leverage

The U.S. bosses have been trying and failing to topple Iran's bosses since the Iranian "revolution" of 1979 overthrew their lackey, the Shah of Iran. What is stopping the U.S. imperialists and their junior criminal partners in Israel from launching genocidal attacks on Iran itself? Iran's regional alliances and its deepening economic and political ties with the United States' arch-rivals make it a more formidable foe than Hamas. Both the Chinese and Russian imperialists are ignoring international sanctions and buying large quantities of oil from Iran (Reuters, 11/10/23).

Iran has military and geographic leverage, as well. About 17 million barrels of oil, around 20 percent of total global demand, pass through the Strait of Hormuz each day (strausscenter.org). If Iran were to obstruct the strait, it would cause global economic chaos. Iran's mountainous topography is a natural fortress against invading powers. Finally, Iran has tailored much of its navy to fend off the U.S. imperialists with an armada of speed boats equipped for naval guerilla warfare.

Israel, racist pariah state

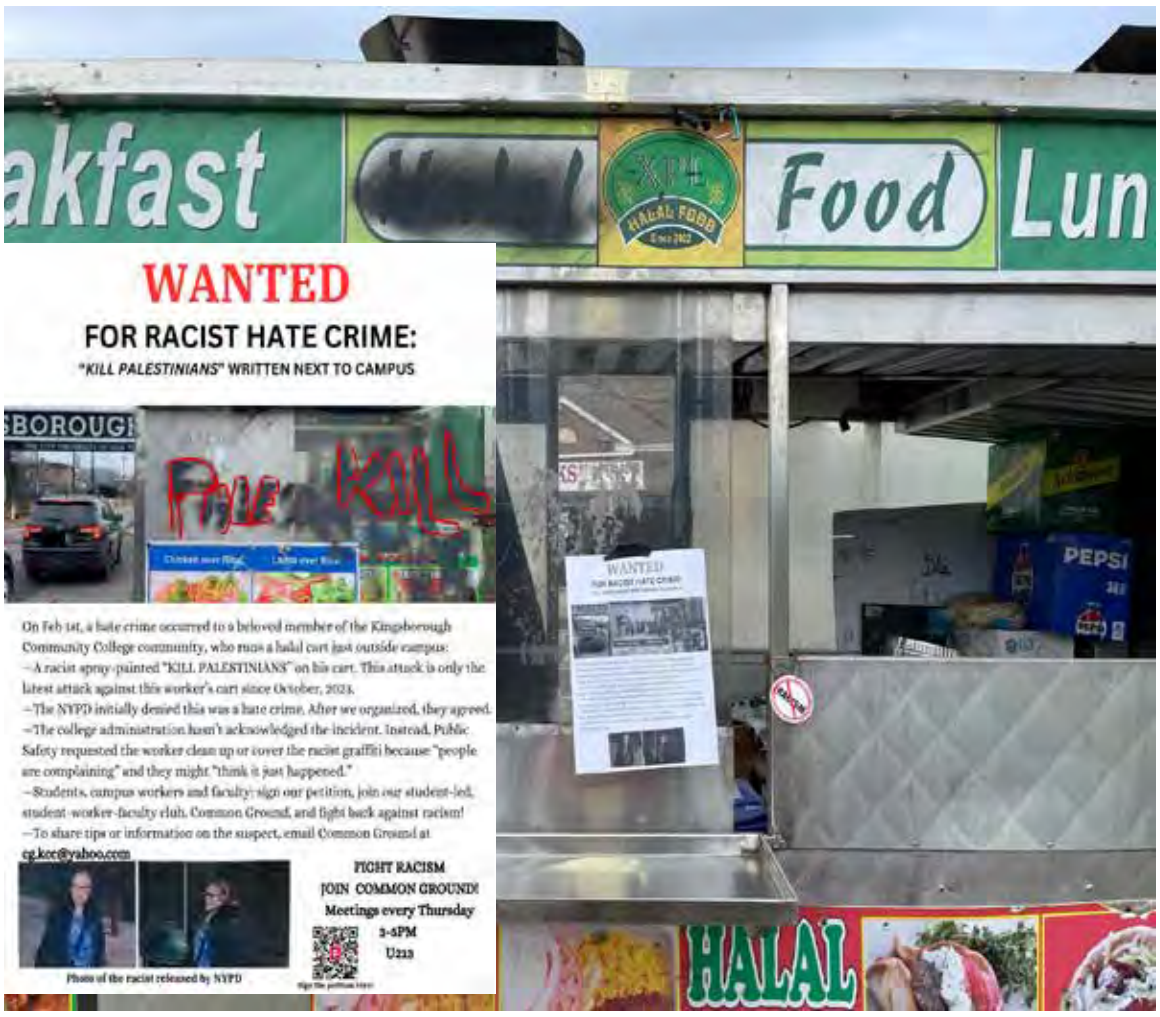
Workers worldwide are showing that they will not take the genocide of Gaza sitting down. Millions have protested against Israel, which has become a pariah state. On April 4, seven Arab workers from Israel and four Palestinians from the West Bank attempted to assassinate Ben Gvir, Israel's fascist national security head. Unfortunately, Israel's anti-war movement is still trapped in Zionist ideology and focuses on the hundred or so Israeli hostages in Gaza while largely ignoring the tens of thousands of Palestinian victims of Israel's vicious ethnic cleansing. A recent call for elections, regardless of how it turns out, will not change Israel's commitment to apartheid in the West Bank and mass open-air incarceration in Gaza.

The rise of global opposition to the U.S. may seem like a good thing. But we must beware of the motives of these opponents when they belong to the capitalist ruling class. As U.S. imperialism declines, China and Russian and their allies are seeking opportunities for inroads in the Middle East and elsewhere. No matter who comes out on top of the bosses' next big conflict, workers will lose—unless they turn the guns around to wage class war against our oppressors. Only a united, multiracial working class led by a revolutionary communist party can end the cycle of imperialist wars to redivide the world for profit. Workers have no dog in this fight!

The Progressive Labor Party encourages all those outraged by the devastation of Gaza to build a base for communism and PLP among workers of the world. Only communist revolution can put capitalist exploitation, racism, imperialist war, and climate catastrophe in the dustbin of history. Only communism can enable the working class to write our own future! Join us!

KCC

Wanted for racist state terror: capitalism


akfast
Food
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HALAL FOOD
WANTED
FOR RACIST HATE CRIME:
"KILL PALESTINIANS" WRITTEN NEXT TO CAMPUS
On Feb 1st, a hate crime occurred to a beloved member of the Kingsborough Community College community, who runs a halal cart just outside campus:
—A racist spray-painted "KILL PALESTINIANS" on his cart. This attack is only the latest attack against this worker's cart since October, 2023.
—The NYPD initially denied this was a hate crime. After we organized, they agreed.
—The college administration hasn't acknowledged the incident. Instead, Public Safety requested the worker clean up or cover the racist graffiti because "people are complaining" and they might "think it just happened."
—Students, campus workers and faculty: sign our petition, join our student-led, student-worker-faculty club, Common Ground, and fight back against racism!
—To share tips or information on the suspect, email Common Ground at cg.kcc@yahoo.com
Photos of the racist released by NYPD
FIGHT RACISM
JOIN COMMON GROUND!
Meetings every Thursday
3-5PM
U212
PEPSI
HALAL

Pictured: halal cart worker under racist attack boldly displays our wanted poster flyer (pictured left) and PLP antiracist button. Students and workers on campus are uniting and building antiracist movement ripe for communist politics

BROOKLYN —"I shouldn't fear for my life to come on campus," stated a halal cart worker to members of Kingsborough Community College's antiracist club, Common Ground. For months, the halal cart has been the target of racist attacks, including racist anti-Palestinian graffiti (see CHALLENGE, 3/13). While the racists intended to terrorize workers and students at KCC into fear and silence, they and the capitalist bosses they're serving made a severe miscalculation. Amidst genocide in Gaza, widening imperialist wars, and sharpening fascism, antiracist students and communists in the Progressive Labor Party are hard at work building a mass, multiracial, antiracist fightback!

Fighting to build unity, solidarity, and collectivity

Since our semester started, Common Ground has regularly met to discuss how best to respond to these racist attacks, with our new women students taking leadership and learning from the experiences of our veteran students. Recently, in addition to tightening rules against student organizing, we were surprised and disgusted to discover two brand-new security cameras installed at either end of our meeting room! Everyone agreed this felt like quite a violation, and one of our new students stated, "This campus feels more and more like a police state and not a college." Another student asked, "Why would they bother spying on us, do they think we're breaking the law?"

The expression "police state" raises an important question – what is the State? What does KCC's administration have to do with the State? And what should workers' attitudes toward the State be?

The capitalist state and communist revolution

States arose when, after about 300,000 years of human societies, divisions of society into classes – between exploiter and exploited – appeared. The state emerged as a special group of people occupied with governing, appearing to stand neutral and outside of society. However, they really enforce a dictatorship of the exploiting class through other special groups granted the legal authority to use violence and imprison whoever the ruling class deems an enemy. Under capitalism, this reality is obscured by layers of appearances like the court system and sophisticated propaganda upheld by the capitalist media, schools, movies, music, and most social media.

The capitalists will always treat antiracist fighters for multiracial unity as criminals. Racism and sexism, along with nationalism, are the pillars that uphold their entire profit system to keep the working class politically divided, differentially oppressed, and economically exploited. Black workers especially are super-exploited and, through racist police terror, the bosses' cops intentionally terrorize Black and immigrant workers on the streets, in schools, and in their own homes.

In this way, the student who observed that KCC seems like a police state is righter than they knew! The capitalist state in the U.S. today includes everyone from Joe Biden to the NYPD, to the administration of every CUNY campus. Arming ourselves with communist politics exposes the dead-end false promises of liberal reforms. Communists fight to arm the entire international working class politically to defend against capitalist attacks in the short term and to organize our entire class to smash this entire genocidal, sexist system with communist revolution and a workers' state of our own!

WANTED for racist terror: capitalism

Guided by these politics, PL'ers supported Common Ground's decision to create a "WANTED FOR RACIST HATE CRIME" poster. The NYPD – who had to be pressured into responding to this racist attack in the first place - only posted two "WANTED" flyers, on a desolate corner outside campus with mostly empty storefronts. After weeks of discussion, we decided instead of relying on the NYPD, we would copy the images of the racist suspect caught on surveillance and create our own! We also created a petition with a list of demands, including calling out KCC's refusal to acknowledge this hate crime even happened and raising money to cover the damage to the halal cart.

Since then, Common Ground members and PL'ers have attended prayers and iftar (when Muslim workers break their fast during the month of Ramadan) at a community mosque multiple times, making friends, distributing the WANTED flyer widely, and sparking outrage and willingness to build a mass movement around fighting back. We are organizing for May Day, and plan to continue discussing the students' sharp observations about capitalism and even sharper questions about communism in our PLP study group. The struggle continues!

Cali's cadre school leads to stronger fighters for communism

LOS ANGELES, February 19 - The bosses give President's Day off to many workers every year. What better way for communists and their friends to celebrate that long weekend than to plan how to get rid of the bosses' presidents for good! Every year, Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in Los Angeles organizes a retreat to study our line, evaluate our work, and plan for May Day and other upcoming struggles. This year comrades from Northern California were able to join us for the first time in many years. Most were base members or new members. Their willingness to attend a weekend of long travel while also balancing their life responsibilities demonstrated a commitment to learning and growing with the Party.

We had three study sessions: Introduction to Dialectical Materialism, The Trap of Nationalism, and No War but Class War and ended the weekend with a planning session for May Day and beyond. Participants appreciated the engaging nature of the sessions. Small group discussions made room for contradictions to arise and be discussed in a comradely manner. There were many entry points into the content so that newer friends and members felt confident to participate, while also advancing the understanding of veteran members. We were also intentional about connecting theoretical conversations to the work that is happening and the mass struggle among our class (strikes, anti-war protests, etc).

Altogether we had a multiracial and multigenerational group of over 15, including friends. During the retreat we shared reports of our regional struggles, studied Party literature, built solidarity, and received feedback on our organizing and base building. The result? A more unified plan of communist action across various sectors of labor— higher education, K-12 education, healthcare, and more— from the Party's critical antiracist, anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist lens. Exciting plans were made! The Northern California Party concentration has set up a study group planning committee to produce visual aids and vocabulary lists as a support to campus outreach. Comrades from LA started a twice a month study group with education workers and students from across the state. We will use this to continue to study the line of the Party together and share updates about labor struggles and a state-wide strategy for direct action on campuses.

One area for growth was that the content was created and led by our more seasoned Party members and didn't involve our base and new members in its development. The Northern California contingent was grateful for the leadership of LA and longtime Party members in organizing the meeting and offering valuable historical context for many of the discussions. Simultaneously, NorCal hopes to support more in the organizing process for future retreats so as to spread the labor out more fairly and to lessen the stress of organizing. Going forward, California as a whole will involve our base and new comrades in the content creation and leadership of upcoming events.

After the retreat, two friends officially joined PLP and another friend is joining a club. Our May Day organizing is in full swing and the future of struggle in California is bright.

For Win Rozario: stop racist cop killings with communist revolution

Photos from vigil where there was an outpouring of workers rage at the kkkops racist murder of mentally ill youth Win Rozario. Justice for Win and all the stolen lives means fighting for communism— where workers can abolish racism and kkkops.

New York City's killer kkkops have struck again, murdering 19-year-old Win Rozario in Queens, a youth from Bangladesh who called the kkkops to help him with a mental health episode. The racist kkkops at the New York Police Department's (NYPD) account of the killing says the cops tased Rozario, then his mother accidentally knocked the taser prongs from his body, causing the teen to rush at the officers with scissors, and they had no choice but to fire. This, despite the situation being two cops to one person and Rozario's brother contradicting their words, saying he was killed while their mother was holding him.

NYPD kkkops "serve and protect" the bosses

The bosses were all too happy to send trigger happy cops to kill Rozario rather than actual mental health professionals (New York Daily News, 3/31). Capitalism shows us everyday that it is ill equipped to help those suffering from mental illness. Rozario's death is the latest in a string of racist killings involving mentally ill workers in the city, most of them Black and Latin. It also comes little over a year after cops in Massachusetts killed Arif Sayed Faisai, another youth from Bangladesh suffering from a mental health crisis. From Deborah Danner to Saheel Vassell to countless more lives, this capitalist system has nothing to offer workers but racist police violence and hopelessness.

The working class must run society - that's communism!

As conditions for the working class worsen, as police killings continue, and as more and more wars rage around the world, we need to go beyond fighting for reforms. We need to organize for communism, a system that will bring an end to the conditions that foster mental illness, and to all police murders as well. Communism is a system where workers internationally not only produce everything but also distribute all goods based on need.

At a vigil for Rozario in Jackson Heights days after his death, the working class, mostly from Bangladesh, came out to demand justice and the release of the NYPD video footage. The working class anger at this killing was palpable. Rozario's death comes after decades of built up racism against Southeast Asian workers after 9/11, not to mention the NYPD's known program of spying on Muslim communities since at least 2002. However, without a communist focus, these workers will be won to identity politics and more "police reform" that will ensure kkkop killings and capitalism continue.

Democratic Mayor Adams: what liberal fascism looks like

Liberal racist Mayor Eric Adams, who had much to say about a recently killed cop in Far Rockaway, was noticeably silent when it came to Rosario, showing his indifference to another Brown worker dying from his death squad. In 2015, when the NYPD began its so-called "de-escalation training" for encounters with mentally ill workers, they killed at least 16 workers experiencing such crisis in succeeding years, with 14 of them Black, Latin and Asian workers (ProPublica, 12/4/20). Rather than give these workers the housing and assistance they truly need, Adams instead opened a useless hotline as a guide for his Nazis in blue for forcibly hospitalizing any worker who "appears" mentally ill (The Guardian, 7/13/23). Giving the NYPD even broader authority to detain anyone they wish is another sign of rising fascism.

Join the Progressive Labor Party

Progressive Labor Party has been at the forefront of several anti-racist protests and fightbacks against racist cop terror in NYC. There is only one way out of this capitalist hellhole, and that's uniting with other workers to overthrow it once and for all! For Win, and too many other names, join PLP to shut this racist system down!

Retired workers fight

'They want me to die but I'll fight!

Members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) are part of the ongoing struggle of retired New York City (NYC) workers fighting against a union/city plan that would switch their health coverage into a Medicare "dis"Advantage program. These plans delay and deny needed treatments. They're requiring preauthorizations for expensive treatments and tests which would add new costs for care that low-income retirees can't afford. It is a sign of growing fascism in the United States that the Municipal Labor Committee (MLC), a group of over 100 unions, is aligning with the city bosses to attempt to force this change. As the ruling class struggles to deal with their crises, they must get the working class on board with making sacrifices needed to prepare for wider war.

Unions work protect capitalist class interests—not workers

At the end of February, the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) showed which side they're on. Following orders of their President, Lee Saunders, eight union staffers from Washington, D.C. entered the DC37 Retiree Association offices and seized their books, records, phones, and computers. AFSCME replaced all the elected leaders with an administrator who will run the 26,000-member association as AFSCME sees fit. They said they did this because the retiree organization had failed to submit the IRS forms to retain their nonprofit status. The real reason is that the retiree leaders had voted to resume contributions to help fund the legal challenge to the new health plan. AFSCME threatened action last June to shut down workers' fightback.

Retirees rallying to stop deadly racist Medicare disAdvantage plan. Capitalist healthcare was never designed to make workers healthy. Only a communist worker-run system can do that!

Some workers see unions as organizations run by workers to fight around their day-to-day needs. The reality is that unions are run by bosses to give workers the illusion that they can reform capitalism to treat them better.

PL'ers participate in struggles workers need to survive in a capitalist-run society. We bring communist ideas into the struggle to build fighting unity of our class and the consciousness needed to combat the bosses'

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Red history interview

From a PL'er in Mack Ave Strike

Fifty-one years ago, the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) helped lead the Mack Avenue sitdown strike at Chrysler, the first such strike since the Flint Michigan sitdown strike of 1936-37 that launched industrial unionism and the United Auto Workers Union (see PLP's The Great Flint Sit Down Strike, available at http://www.plp.org/leaflets-pamphlets/pamphlets/).

Sitdown strikes in the 1930s included actions at the Akron Rubber Works and Woolworth's Department store, but the tactic was abandoned by the reformist leadership of the labor movement as it sunk further into business unionism. The Mack Avenue sitdown strike exposed the union misleaders, strengthened the PLP's work among industrial workers, and invigorated the PLP throughout the world.

Communists have historically led the working class in struggles against the bosses. From such struggles, new revolutionary cadres can come forward to advance the vision of a wage-less, classless society if communists struggle for these ideas in the midst of such battles against the ruling class.

What follows is an interview with a PLP member who was active in the sitdown action in Detroit.

The Mack avenue sit-down strike was inspired by the sitdown strikes of the 1930s. (It was difficult to find photos from the actual strike). The first such strike was the Flint Michigan Sit-down strike of 1936-37 (pictured left), launching the United Auto Workers (UAW), and inspiring other militant sit-down strikes like the woman worker led Woolworth's Department store Sit-down Strike (pictured right), and the PLP led 1973 Mack Avenue sitdown strike. Historically and today strikes are schools for communism.

The PLP has for many years argued that building a revolutionary base among industrial workers is a central task for communists. Why is this important?

Of all workers, those who work in manufacturing, mining, or other heavy industries are generally forced by the conditions of production to cooperate rather than compete. This is why the formation of labor unions occurred first among such workers. Moreover, the capitalist class depends on industrial workers to produce the wealth of the society and the profits they draw from this. Accordingly, industrial workers are both best positioned and most experienced in the cooperative venture to stop production and the flow of profits until the capitalists grant their demands for better pay and working conditions. As we've seen with the recent rail workers, UPS drivers, and UAW workers, even the threat of a broad industrial strike terrifies the bosses and they kick into high gear to try to stop them. If communists are immersed among these workers and explaining how capitalism must be overthrown, then the struggle of industrial workers can be a stepping stone to the overthrow of the capitalist system.

You were in charge of coordinating the sale and distribution of the PLP newspaper CHALLENGE-DESAFIO in Detroit in 1973. Could you describe how auto workers responded to the newspaper and other literature we shared with them?

Detroit was a manufacturing center in heavy industry, automobiles and trucks with numerous auto plants in the area. This setting created a great opportunity to meet workers going in or coming out at shift changes. A group of about five or six comrades would rotate from one plant to another and return to each on a weekly basis. We would, over time, befriend many of the workers and talk with them about capitalism and how it created bad conditions on their job forcing them to constantly strike or take some other job action in order to improve their working conditions and wages. One interesting story about this was when we argued that they should walk out until their demands were met if management refused to improve the ventilation or cooling in the summer months. When a strike would occur at a plant across town we would use it as an example of what they too could do. Often the response was, "I'd be willing, but these other guys would never do that." One day we arrived at the Ford River Rouge compound and found the entire shift milling around in the parking lot. "What's happening?" we asked. "We walked out over the heat," came the answer-- from one of the guys who said that his companions would never take such an action! So to rub it in, we said, "We thought you said your friends would never do this." "Well, I was wrong," came the answer. Workers need to act together to know how the others

Continued on page 7

Baltimore Key Bridge collapsed by capitalist disregard

Capitalist neglect in infrastructure has cost workers' lives in the Baltimore Key Bridge collapse. Six out of eight workers on the bridge–all of them Latin-perished when a container ship lost power and steering, crashing into the bridge's support pier. Their deaths were no accident, but rather the racist indifference of their non-union company, Brawner Builders. In a communist world Progressive Labor Party (PLP) is fighting for, catastrophes may still happen, but much less frequently because our motivation will be for the working class, not profit, which drives Brawner Builders and every other scumbag capitalist enterprise.

Workers' lives don't matter to bosses

Brawner was previously investigated and cited four times for failing to protect its workers against falls at construction sites. For their workers on Key Bridge, they failed to provide a safety boat, required when employees are working over, or adjacent to water. Worst of all, Brawner had made no arrangement, in case of an emergency, for contacting their workers on the bridge.

According to a local newspaper, "…One former construction worker said crew members likely could have hopped in a truck and sped off the 1.6-mile bridge if they'd been reached by phone or radio" (Baltimore Sun, 3-29-24). Failing that, if the required safety boat had been in place that night, it may have been possible to rescue them from the Patapsco River.

State bosses also to blame for deaths

Engineers have said the bridge had sparse protection for its main support pillars. About three minutes before impact, the ship's pilot had issued an emergency mayday, tried to slow the ship by dropping anchor, and radioed for tugboats to assist. That quick mayday distress signal saved lives, providing enough warning time for others to stop oncoming traffic at both ends of the bridge. However, the eight construction workers on the bridge that night were repairing potholes.

Before the Key Bridge was built, the original plan, in 1968, was for a tunnel. In fact, construction of approach ramps for that tunnel was started, but then calculations showed that a chunk of money could be saved, and more traffic carried, by building a bridge instead. "It was a terrible place to build a bridge – over a main shipping channel – at the harbor entrance… The Association [of Maryland ship pilots] raised as big a fuss as possible about the whole idea but, as usual, we were outvoted by the politics of the state." (Captain Brian Hope, Bay Pilot: A History of the Association of Maryland Pilots).

Another policy behind this tragedy was not using tug boats to help guide cargo ships as they approach the bridge, and go under it. "The 5,000-horsepower tugs, which only minutes earlier had helped guide the ship [Dali] out of its berth at the Port of Baltimore and peeled off, quickly turned back and raced toward the Dali. But it was too late… Maritime experts interviewed by The Associated Press say they could have made a difference if the tugs had stuck by the ship longer, in a position to see it drifting off course and potentially nudge or tow it back in line. Such extended tugboat escorts aren't required or even customary in Baltimore or at many other U.S. ports, mostly because of the costs they would add for shippers." (Associated Press 3-29-24).

Racism

Every construction worker on the Key Bridge was an immigrant. They traveled here, years ago, from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras. Now, capitalism has stolen their lives. Construction, under capitalism, is a high-hazard industry with workers exposed to serious risks. Immigrants from Central and South America are over-represented in this industry, making up about a third of U.S. construction workers. Being pushed disproportionately into this dangerous work is a significant aspect of racism.

Another facet of racism, regarding the bridge collapse, has flooded social media. Racists are blaming Black workers. They make an asinine argument – because Baltimore is a predominantly Black city with a Black mayor and a majority Black city council, and because Maryland's governor is also Black – that the fall of the bridge is rooted in incompetence by Black officials. They call Brandon Scott a "DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) mayor." On the other hand, it must be pointed out that all politicians – no matter what their racial background – are loyal to the capitalist system for which the profit motive is valued more than life itself. Capitalism is the real root of the Key Bridge disaster.

It must also be pointed out that Francis Scott Key, for whom the bridge is named, was an enslaver. In fact, he was born to massive slaveholding wealth. As a District Attorney in Washington DC, he prosecuted abolitionists.

Working class love

There has been massive support for the families of the six workers who plummeted to their deaths from the Key Bridge. Latino Racial Justice Circle quickly raised $98,000, and a City Office of Immigrant Affairs has been given many donations – totaling $418,000 at this time – for the families.

The love for our class will become a victorious force when millions of working class fighters join the PLP. We can and must defeat the capitalist system. We desperately need a world in which egalitarian communism liberates our class. Yes, some disasters may still occur, but far fewer. For those that do occur, we will handle them with love for our class, not love of money

LETTERS

We encourage <u>all</u> CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

We will remember Claude

This letter marks the one-year angelversary of 17-year-old Claude, a former student killed in these capitalist Brooklyn streets. It also marks our year-long fight to keep his memory alive in the face of multiple memorial tear-downs by the school administration. The Black administration has time and time again proven to fear mainly-Black students' class-consciousness. This time, they stayed surprisingly quiet.

Claude's cohort graduated, and with them, much of his memory. A school with a high staff turnaround also means only about six teachers remember him. (See the 2023 CHALLENGEs 4/12, 4/26, and 11/29 for the full backstory.) So it was important to the young student organizers—who didn't know Claude personally but through the struggle have grown to befriend him in death—keep Claude's memory alive. They wanted to make it clear that Claude's life mattered. Borrowing from our comrades fighting for justice for Alex Flores in Los Angeles, we decided to mark the day as Claude's "angel-versary."

The student organizers used their lunch period to spread Claude's story. They asked a friend to bring in her special markers, so they can draw hand and arm tattoos of Claude's name. They also distributed hundreds of stickers that read, "we will remember Claude" and "I am Claude." It had me teary-eyed seeing so many 9th graders in the hallway with the stickers on their chest, arms, socks, and even faces. Many staff members also wore the stickers.

Many of the new and younger students know Claude as "the kid on the teacher's desk" and from the poem Claude McKay's "If We Must Die" (Communist magazine Liberator in 1919) posted in the class. Last year, we teachers organized to have a personal memorial of Claude in our classrooms. Four rooms have kept this tradition. It was an opportunity to share stories of Claude as well as to have conversations about how remembering can be an act of defiance in a society where erasure is a tool of capitalist oppression. If we forget and become passive, the more power the rulers have. Memory brings with it working-class rage, and if organized, working-class rebellion.

You know, how the ruling-class tried to bury Claude is similar to how that same ruling class tried to bury the memory of 14,500 Palestinian children murdered by U.S.-Israel warmongers. By fighting to remember, we are also fighting to never let the rulers forget what they did. To borrow from the Greek poet Dinos Christianopoulos and the 2014 Ayotzinapa struggle, "they tried to bury us, but they didn't know we were seeds." From Gaza to Brooklyn, we hope to plant seeds of fightback.

While we don't know why the administration ignored this student action, we do know that actions such as these help build confidence in our class. The next step is to show these courageous students that they are not alone in their search for a just world. What better way than May Day?

**The pseudonym Claude is inspired by the Black communist fighter-writer, Claude Mckay.*

555th West Struggle: Yes to optimism, no to one-sidedness

The CHALLENGE article about West Wednesday #555 is excellent! The only criticism I'd make is that - in this comrade's judgment - it somewhat exaggerates the strength of revolutionary politics within the West Coalition. For example, though the article does, to some extent, point out the opposite side later on, one of the introductory sentences says, "This makes 555 Wednesdays where the coalition has tirelessly dedicated to calling out the fake liberal bosses and their politrickans…"

True. However, for example, there is still a soft spot - among organizersin West Wednesday - for Baltimore City Council member Ryan Dorsey who, at first, seemed to support our vigorous push to stop Worley from becoming Baltimore's new police commissioner. Worthless Worley is the former head of Northeast District, and an enabler of the killer cops under his command who stole Tyrone West's life, brutalized others, and who have since been promoted.

Though Ryan Dorsey stabbed us in the back at the last minute, during that effort to stop Worley's confirmation, there are nevertheless some ongoing expectations - within the West Coalition - that Dorsey's liberalism will be helpful down the road.

Additionally, a leading voice - at the weekly West Wednesday rallies and livestreams - has expressed some mixed feelings: on the one hand criticizing Maryland's legislative process for never stopping brutality against Black workers for 400 years but, on the other hand, sometimes voicing an expectation that the legislature is where we will one day get significant justice.

There is also a certain level of commitment to pacifism, among West Wednesday organizers, even though, as history has shown us, the defeat of slavery necessitated the Civil War. Similarly today, it's unrealistic to expect that the flower of egalitarian communism can burst from the manure of capitalism without revolution.

Someone in another city reading the article might get the impression that organizersin the West Coalition embrace the Party's ideas, and that nothing's holding them back from joining Progressive Labor Party. That's not the situation.

Yes, in CHALLENGE we need to uphold revolutionary optimism (which the article does excellently!) but we also need to always be objective, not one-sided. We need to always give people a full understanding of the real situation.

The Old Oak movie a condemnation to capitalist inequality

My wife and I and two comrades went to see the latest Ken Loach film, *The Old Oak.* It's set a few years ago in a small town in northern England, the de-industrialized, impoverished region of the country where children are malnourished and where wealthy outside investors buy up property at bargain prices, depreciating the value of the homes of local residents. Into this cauldron of social misery come a few families of Syrian refugees fleeing the oppressive regime of Bashar al-Assad. Some of the locals resent the newcomers and are unwelcoming, while others offer assistance and the tension between the two groups mounts.

The film is well-acted and beautifully shot. The director offers a politics of "solidarity, not charity," in which working class folks with little means but with a memory of the days of fierce class struggle, when miners went on strike and stood shoulder to shoulder for months against Prime Minister Thatcher and the police, extend assistance to people who are coming from the Syrian war zone.

The two main characters are Tommy Joe Ballantyne (who owns the local pub and whose deceased father was a leftist miner) and Yara, a Syrian refugee who learned English while working for two years in refugee camps. The two of them bond and stand up to the local racists who want the refugees to leave. Though Loach clearly disapproves of their nativist views, he provides a materialist explanation for them: the refugees provide a scapegoat for the raw deal that capitalism has handed them. Rather than understand and blame the class system, they foolishly blame workers from other countries who are in worse shape. Sound familiar?

Embracing the old miner's adage of "those who eat together stick together", Tommy, Yara and dozens of others plan a dinner that will bring together the Syrian and local families in the back room of the pub. Yara uses her camera to take pictures depicting the dignity and humanity of the townspeople. Loach is realistic enough to know that not everyone will be won over; the racists hit back. Nevertheless, *The Old Oak* remains optimistic that working class solidarity will ultimately win out over division.

Although the terms "capitalism" and "revolution" are never used, which is a weakness, the film is a powerful condemnation of the inequality and immiseration of capitalism, both in Britain and in Syria. It promotes solidarity based on common life experiences and interests, and we should organize many of our friends and co-workers to see *The Old Oak* and then march on May Day.

"IF I MUST DIE"

BY REFAAT ALAREER

If I must die,
you must live
to tell my story
to sell my things
to buy a piece of cloth
and some strings,
(make it white with a long tail)
so that a child, somewhere in Gaza
while looking heaven in the eye
awaiting his dad who left in a blaze—
and bid no one farewell
not even to his flesh
not even to himself—
sees the kite, my kite you made, flying up above
and thinks for a moment an angel is there
bringing back love
If I must die
let it bring hope
let it be a tale

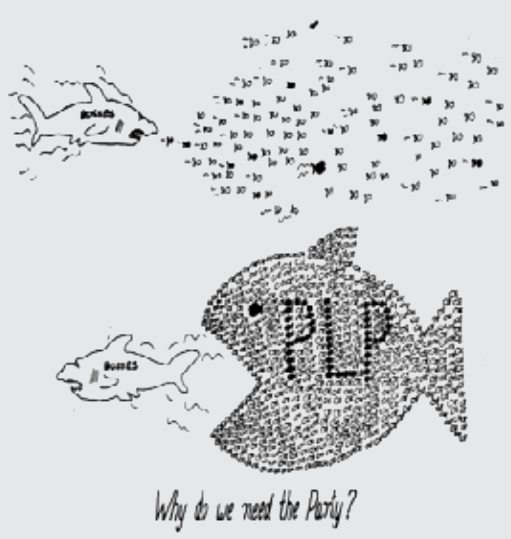
'They want me to die but I'll fight!

Continued from page 4

ideas put forth by union misleaders. Only by winning masses of workers involved in class struggle to join the fight for communist revolution will we be able to build an egalitarian society where all share and control the fruits of their labor.

Attacks on Medicare expose a deeply racist and decaying capitalist system

On March 6th, 150 angry retirees and their allies rallied in front of the DC37 Retiree Association Headquarters. They expressed their anger at the proposed medical coverage change and how it's an attack on low-income (disproportionately Black, Latin, and women) retirees. They vented their anger at the AFSCME staff who were not even in the office to help a retiree who needed questions answered. They demanded an end to the administratorship. A retired school crossing guard who is battling cancer said, "They want me to die but I won't die. I'll fight!" Another worker called for ending contributions to the AFSCME political action fund which is being used to attack retirees in NYC. She previously campaigned for AFSCME-endorsed candidates in several states and volunteered to build AFSCME in Puerto Rico but not anymore!



Fightback and read CHALLENGE!

On March 14th, PL'ers were part of the crowd that packed the court for an appeals case. We circulated CHALLENGE at both events along with a Party flier. As we were leaving, one of the judges said she hadn't seen anything like this before. We will continue to oppose these racist and sexist attacks on our fellow retirees. The city bosses and their union flunkies are finding out that we might be retired but we haven't expired. We will fight back!

From a PL'er in Mack Ave Strike

Continued from page 5

think.

The Mack Avenue sit-down strike was an iconic event in both the PLP's work and in auto workers' history. Could you describe the events that led up to the strike, how the strike proceeded, and how it ended?

Sure! Two PLP members worked in the plant on the same assembly line. The Party leadership suggested that they organize a sitdown strike, occupy the machinery, and refuse to work or let other workers on other shifts take their place. This was to be the first sit-down strike in the auto industry in 36 years. The plan unfolded by the two comrades asking all the other workers on the line whether they would be willing to sit down in order to improve their conditions and wages. When most of them agreed, the other workers joined in as well, so the day of the sit down was set. When that day arrived, the team of Mack Avenue workers carried out their plan, sitting down on their machines and refusing to work. The PLP mobilized all of the PLP members in the city to come to surround the plant and distribute leaflets to passersby explaining what was happening. This was the main event in the center ring in Detroit for several days. The workers sat down on their machines, refused to leave, and closed down all production at that plant. The bosses were furious but couldn't budge the workers.

After three days, the police and plant guards were finally able to oust the strikers who then set up solid picket lines around the plant. The PLP brought reinforcements from throughout the city to join the picket line, all the while passing out leaflets and selling CHALLENGE. A PLP leader came to Detroit from New York to help the struggle and write an article for the next issue of CHALLENGE.

Shawn Fain, today's UAW president, has frequently referred glowingly to the 1936-37 Flint Michigan Sit Down Strike that propelled the auto workers' union forward. CHALLENGE-DESAFIO also noted in 1973 that the Mack Avenue Sit Down strike was the first sitdown strike in auto since then. How did the union leaders of that time react to the Mack Avenue sitdown strike? Why do you think they reacted in this way?

The UAW leadership opposed the Mack Avenue sitdown strike for its boldness, its open challenge to Chrysler's control, and its defiance of the collective bargaining agreement that barred such actions. These reformist union misleaders were not prepared to engage themselves, not wanting to jeopardize union property or face jail themselves. In fact, they acted as if they were Pinkerton agents for Chrysler, building up a band of local union officers from UAW locals from throughout the Midwestern states —but not for solidarity! Just the opposite! This band of close to a thousand men (they were all men) marched on the picket line to break it up. They were armed with baseball bats; they were not kidding. The two comrades were warned that this mob would be looking for them and were spirited away by some workers to safety. But this assault by the supposed leaders of the workers ended the strike, and the workers were forced back to work.

Were there other repercussions from this action?

Definitely! Following the end of the strike, some of the workers who played a central role were fired, and the two comrades were arrested and charged with pipe attacks on the plant guards who first tried to oust the strikers. The trial was presided over by a "leftist" judge (many former radicals became stooges for the bosses, including Coleman Young, the mayor, who had at one time been a member of Communist Party!). The judge had been elected overwhelmingly to his position in this union town, but rather than being a friend to the accused comrades, he did everything he could to help the prosecution and stymie the defense. The defense lawyers were friends and former colleagues of the judge, and were shocked at his behavior. One of them, objecting in frustration to a ruling by the judge, said loudly, "But Chuck, I mean, your honor, how can you make such a ruling?" It was a fiasco. But the jury selection was not in the prosecution's favor. The prosecution tried to weed out any Chrysler workers, members of their families, or other auto workers and their relatives, but in Detroit, that didn't leave many people. So the jury was filled with working class people who refused to convict, even though there were numerous witnesses who confirmed that the comrades had indeed defended their position in the plant by striking the guards with pipes!

Please tell us about some of the individuals who were important figures in the strike, both PLP members, friends of the PLP, and other workers?

The two comrades were one white and one Black. Most of the workers on the assembly line were also Black, which was characteristic of the auto industry in Detroit. Friends of the PLP among the workers who helped lead the strike were fired, along with the two comrades. But the unity of the entire assembly line of around 50 workers was a stirring example of the militancy, anger at their condition, and willingness to fight even against the police and plant guards. This is a microcosm of what workers are capable of doing, once they are convinced that they can count on each other.

Looking back on the strike, what were the strengths and weaknesses of the action, both in terms of advancing the day-to-day conditions of workers and in terms of building the revolutionary movement for communism?

I think that it's very difficult in the early days of building a movement for the abolition of capitalism to ask workers to risk their jobs and livelihoods. The building of confidence in each other, both within the Party and between the Party and the working class is a long process, and it takes close relationships among comrades and fellow workers to bring this about. We call this base building! This is true for both the day to day struggle and even more so for the longer-term fight for communism.

A Party has to grow to a size much greater than our present state before a communist vision can become a mass phenomenon, although we can be engaged in class struggle at all times with an eye towards bringing our fellow workers, students, and strugglers into agreement with a communist strategy and vision. This is especially true in this day of complete confusion about whom to trust among government officials, political organizations, and candidates, and how to tell the truth from falsehood.

What advice would you offer to today's young workers as they seek to expand the PLP's work in basic industries?

All of us must be willing and ready to question every aspect of our current thinking and strategy and, through study and practice, further develop our analysis of the world and the strategies needed to change it. Moving towards revolution requires that we build on each step we take, like the Mack Avenue sitdown strike action, to evaluate the extent to which we have succeeded (or failed!) in achieving both short-term improvements and long-term capacity for struggle.

I have confidence that with the process of learning, questioning, and changing, we can bring many more workers into our orbit, especially in today's chaotic environment of escalating war, racism, and global warming.

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

DRC crisis worsens

Al Jazeera, 3/29–War is on the doorstep of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) Goma city and the region is at breaking point, activists and aid workers have said, as the United Nations sounds an alarm over the situation in the Central African country. "One Congolese person out of four faces hunger and malnutrition," Bintou Keita, the head of the UN's DRC peacekeeping mission MONUSCO, told the UN Security Council this week, warning of a rapidly deteriorating security situation and a humanitarian crisis reaching near catastrophic levels.

"More than 7.1 million people have been displaced in the country. That is 800,000 people more since my last briefing three months ago," she said. Heavy fighting between the Congolese army and armed group M23 has intensified in the eastern part of the country since February…

Haiti crisis worsens as well

Washington Post, 4/5–Heavily armed gangs control 80 percent of Port-au-Prince, the United Nations has estimated,…Haiti doesn't manufacture firearms, and the U.N. prohibits importing them, but…When they go shopping, the United States is their gun store. William O'Neill, the U.N.'s independent expert on human rights in Haiti, called conditions here "cataclysmic." The presidency is vacant; the prime minister has announced his intention to resign; the National Assembly has gone home.

Nearly 85 percent of guns found at crime scenes in Haiti…in 2021…were traced to the United States. In the Bahamas in 2022, that figure was 98 percent.

…authorities have noted a "marked uptick" in the number and size of guns smuggled into Haiti… .50-caliber sniper rifles, a belt-fed machine gun, and a cache of other high-powered weapons bound for Haiti in 2022,…Traffickers are taking advantage of Miami's "break-bulk" port, a miles-long stretch of the Miami River lined with freighters that carry cargo…

IDF targets medical workers

The Guardian, 4/7–Professor Nick Maynard was operating on a patient with abdomen and chest bomb injuries when an Israeli missile struck the al-Aqsa hospital's intensive care unit in the adjacent building, forcing his medical emergency team to withdraw from Gaza days earlier than scheduled. "I've witnessed with my own eyes an attack by the Israel Defense Forces on the intensive care unit there," said Maynard, who works as a surgeon in Oxford and has been traveling to Gaza since 2010.

Aid and health workers account for at least 700 of the more than 32,000 people killed in Israel's assault on Gaza, according to the UN and the Palestinian health ministry. Of Gaza's 36 hospitals, only 10 are partly functioning, according to the World Health Organization. "systematically" uses hospitals and medical centres to conduct terror activities.

…The UN condemned the destruction and killing at the hospital, with health workers and patients among those reportedly killed. "At this point, we are no longer discussing availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality of healthcare received in dignity, but the annihilation of any infrastructure capable of providing basic first aid," the UN human rights office said.

Asian Pacific alliance prepares for war with China

France24, 4/7–Beijing's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command said it was organizing "joint naval and air combat patrols in the South China Sea". "All military activities that mess up the situation in the South China Sea and create hotspots are under control," it said in a statement, in an apparent swipe at the other drills being held in the waters. Top US officials have repeatedly declared the United States' "ironclad" commitment to defending the Philippines against an armed attack in the South China Sea…

…drills conducted Sunday by the Philippines, United States, Japan and Australia are intended to "(ensure) that all countries are free to fly, sail, and operate wherever international law allows," US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said in a joint statement. Talks between the Philippines and Japan for a defence pact that would allow the countries to deploy troops on each other's territory were "still ongoing", a spokesman for the Philippine foreign affairs department told reporters last week. Manila already has a similar agreement with Australia and the United States.

HAPPY 59TH!

LONG LIVE PLP, WILL BECOME BEACON FOR WORKING CLASS

On April 17 Progressive Labor Party (PLP/PL) will celebrate its 59th year of fighting the cancerous system called capitalism, a system which destroys workers' lives worldwide. PLP arose in the 1960s splitting from the reformist Communist Party of the United States. We began with barely two dozen members. In 2024 we are an international, fighting party organizing in five continents.

Workers all over the world are currently in a period of low class consciousness and struggle against the world's capitalists. We call this period Dark Night. It is characterized by inter-imperialist rivalry between the U.S. imperialists and the alliance of Chinese-Russian imperialists. As this rivalry escalates, the imperialists are resorting to ever-increasing levels of war and fascism to divide, kill and control workers everywhere. The working class desperately needs a fighting, communist party to take us out of this Dark Night and into a victorious fight against the world's capitalists.

Our line & our vision

Progressive Labor Party struggles for a communist world run by and for workers. Capitalism has caused world wars costing millions of workers' lives and capitalists are preparing for WorldWar III. In a world run by the working class all goods and resources would be shared according to need. There would be no production for the profit of a few. There would be no need for profiteering wars. The working class need only realize its unlimited potential to fight and rule. PLP has and will continue to struggle alongside fellow workers to help us realize this potential.

To realize this potential, PL implements a strategy of practice and theory. We get involved in fighting the bosses (practice). We analyze our fightback and the struggles of workers worldwide. We analyze the world situation(theory). Then we implement what we learned in future struggles (practice) and apply it to our line (theory). These lessons and beliefs together make up Progressive Labor Party's unique political line. Here are some elements of PL's line gained from 59 years of practice and theory:

- Society must be run by and for the working class. That's communism.
- The wage system and money itself must be abolished. Resources must be distributed based on need.
- Workers can only gain power through armed struggle. The bosses will not give up peacefully.
- We reject the concept of nations; no nationalism, and no borders. We are all workers and a worker in Israel is more like a worker in Gaza than like an Israeli capitalist.
- Multiracial unity: Racism is a product and tool of the ruling capitalist class meant to divide and conquer the working class. A united, multiracial working class is unstoppable.
- Antisexism: The systemic super-exploitation, oppression and objectification of women divides and weakens the working class.
- We need to concentrate among industrial workers and soldiers, key to defeating the capitalists.
- We struggle to inject these ideas into every struggle and will continue to do so until the working class runs the world. (For more see Our Fight on page 2)

A legacy of struggle and theory

Ever since its birth in 1965 Progressive Labor Party has been fighting back against the bosses' attacks on workers. We have organized and supported auto workers and striking teachers in Mexico; striking miners in Hazard, Kentucky; fiber workers in India; bank workers in Colombia; sit-down strikers at Detroit's Mack Avenue Chrysler plant; farm workers in California, and bakery workers at Stella D'Oro in the Bronx. We have stood with evicted workers in Palestine-Israel, earthquake victims in Pakistan, and hurricane victims in Haiti and New Orleans. More recently the Party has organized with tenants fighting abusive slumlords in Lennox, California, stood with students facing racist school policies in Prince George's County, Maryland, and struggled alongside a family in Newark, New Jersey physically assaulted by racist police.

Fighting racism has always been a core tenet of PLP. We backed Black workers and youth in the 1964 Harlem Rebellion and fought off racist school segregationists in Boston in 1975. In 1976 we integrated Chicago's Marquette Park, while smashing the Nazi headquarters there. We have led more than 100,000 protesters against the Ku Klux Klan and neo-Nazis across the United States. We have mobilized against racist killer cops from Brooklyn, to Los Angeles, to Chicago, to Ferguson, Missouri.

PLP has led intense fightbacks against the bosses' wars. In the 1960s, we were the first to organize mass demonstrations against the U.S. imperialist war Vietnam. We worked both within the military and on the streets to expose the U.S. rulers' invasion of Iraq as a mass-murdering oil grab. More recently PL has participated in fightbacks against the bosses' genocidal occupation of Palestine, saying that this attack on workers in Gaza is about profits and won't be solved by fighting for a Palestinian state ruled by a new group of capitalists.

These ideas, struggles, and victories came directly out of our Party's analysis of past class struggles and the achievements of millions of workers. PLP studied and continues to study the strengths and weaknesses of the communist movement throughout history. In 1917 this movement created a revolution in Russia; in 1949, a revolution in China, two of the largest countries in the world under the red banner of communism! But PL also acknowledges the weaknesses of the past movements. Nationalism, allowing wages and money to persist, and allowing elitism to form within party structures are some of the mistakes of the old movements that led to the rebirth of capitalism. We are committed to not repeating those mistakes.

Celebrate the Party on May Day

Next month is May Day, where every year the Party celebrates communism and the working class. We would be honored if you would join us in these celebrations and join our Party in this fight for a communist world. Let's all chip in and build a united, multiracial working class capable of winning a communist world. Happy birthday PLP!

WRITE FOR CHALLENGE!

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons.

The next deadline is night of Friday, March 22

Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See sidebar on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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